will prove of value to students of the migration and distribution of these interesting birds.

Bulletin No. 5[1] is an admirable paper on the nesting habits of the American Crow, based on notes from observers representing twenty-eight States and two Provinces.

In the preliminary remarks and reports upon the character, habits, and food of Crows, the author states that he "fully believes the benefits derived from their destruction of injurious insects, rodents, etc., and their work as scavengers, largely offsets the damage done by them, if it does not over-balance it." Under 'nidification' we have paragraphs devoted to the situation, position, height, construction, composition, and measurements of the nest, while a succeeding section treats with equal detail of the eggs. The matter is well selected and the author's remarks upon the causes which influence the position and construction of the nest, the number and size of the eggs, etc., are worthy the attention of all students of philosophic ornithology.

These two papers evince in a most satisfactory manner the results which may be obtained by well directed, coöperative effort.— F. M. C.

Clark on the Pterylography of North American Goatsuckers and Owls.[2] — Mr. Clark's paper is a welcome contribution to a much neglected subject. Of the Caprimulgi the genera treated are *Phalænoptilus*, *Antrostomus*, *Nyctidromus*, and *Chordeiles*. The pterylosis of each is described in detail, figured and compared. While found to be the same in plan in all, the genera all differ from each other in more or less important details. Among the Striges the pterylosis of only *Asio accipitrinus* is figured in full, with that of the head of *Megascops asio*, Nitzsch having already figured the pterylosis of most of the other genera, and Dr. Shufeldt that of *Speotyto*. The leading points of the subject are, however, reviewed, and comparisons made between the different genera, and also with the Caprimulgi. In these comparisons perhaps rather too much stress is laid upon unimportant details, which in some cases may be merely coincidences of no particular suggestiveness rather than features entitled to serious taxonomic consideration. Such perhaps is the relative length of the primaries, and the number and relative length of the rectrices, features variable in otherwise closely related genera in a large number of families.

Mr. Clark concludes from his study of the pterylography of these groups "that the Caprimulgi are related to Striges, and not very distantly

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[1] Bulletin No. 5, *Ibid.*, The American Crow (*Corvus americanus*). With Special Reference to its Nest and Eggs. By Frank L. Burns, Oberlin, Ohio, March 15, 1895. 12mo. pp. 41.

[2] The Pterylography of certain American Goatsuckers and Owls. By Hubert Lyman Clark. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XVII, pp. 551–572. June, 1895.

either — probably a branch from the early part of the Strigine stem." The weight of authority, he admits, is directly opposed to this view; and he considerately adds, that "if the other characters are all against" his conclusions based on "a comparative study of the pterylography of the two groups as represented in North America," they should be set aside. Mr. Clark is doing careful work in a useful field, but he hardly appears to realize that it is rather early to generalize on broad questions when, as in these two groups, and particularly in the Caprimulgi, so small a portion of the field has been covered by his investigations. It is well to have a good collection of facts before entering too freely into the field of speculation. — J. A. A.

Verrill on Antarctic Birds.[1] — This valuable paper is based upon the notes and collections of Mr. George Comer who, while on sealing voyages, visited South Georgia from October 9, 1885, to February 11, 1886; Kerguelen Island from November 24, 1887, to February 5, 1888; and Gough Island from August 22, 1888, to January 23, 1889. This long period gave Mr. Comer unequalled opportunities for observation and his notes on the breeding season are beyond comparison more detailed as to dates than any we have previously had from this region. Twenty species belonging to the following families are treated: Anatidæ, one; Rallidæ, one; Chionidæ, one; Diomedeidæ, four; Procellariidæ, four; Pelecanoididæ, one; Stercorariidæ, one; Laridæ, three; Sphenicidæ, four. Almost all of these are represented by skins and eggs. One, *Porphyriornis comeri*, a flightless Gallinule, common on Gough Island, has been made the type of a new genus by Dr. J. A. Allen[2], while *Thalassogeron eximius*, an Albatross allied to *T. chlororhynchus* and *T. culminatus*, is here described as new and figured.

Mr. Comer reports two kinds of small sparrow-like birds from Gough Island and a third kind from Kerguelen Island, but unfortunately did not procure specimens of these, doubtless, undescribed species.

The paper, which concludes with extracts from Mr. Comer's journals, is a most important addition to our scanty knowledge of Antarctic birds. — F. M. C.

Publications Received. — **Andersen**, Knud. *Diomedea melanophrys*, boende paa Færoerne. (Vidensk. Medd. fra den naturh. Foren. i Kobenhavn, 1894, pp. 241–264, pl. v.)

Blasius, Rudolf. (1) Christian Ludw. Brehm. Hermann Schlegel. Alfred Brehm. Festrede gehalten von Professor Dr. Rudolf Blasuis zur

[1] Notes on Birds and Eggs from the Islands of Gough, Kerguelen, and South Georgia. With two plates. By G. E. Verrill. Trans. Conn. Acad. IX, 2, Mch. 1895, pp. 430–478.

[2] Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, 1892, p. 57.